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A.E.S. Samiti  
JAMMU.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Hindu Devasthan Surakhsha Samiti

SRINAGAR

144

RELIGIOUS CONVENTION

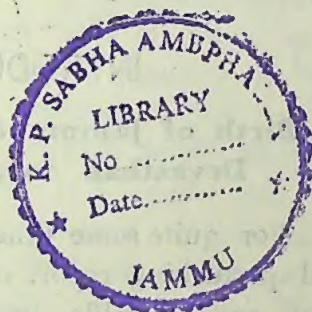
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SRINAGAR

AUGUST 27, 1978

Reports & Resolution





Dedicated to the sacred memory of those valient members of the minority community who laid down their lives in our struggle for honour and dignity in 1967.

## INTRODUCTION

### **(Birth of Jammu & Kashmir Hindu Devasthan Surakhsha Samiti)**

For quite some time past, the most alarming and perturbing report of large scale intrusions into and forcible occupation of the Hindu temples, shrines, and lands, and other properties attached thereto by some organised groups of anti-social elements belonging to the majority community have been pouring in from every nook and corner of the State in general and the valley in particular, where the Kashmiri Hindus form a microscopic community. These disquieting reports have naturally sent in tremors of resentment and shock through the entire Hindu population of the State and the apathetic and callously indifferent attitude of the State Government in dealing with the guilty elements only lends credence to the fact that the activities of these elements are deliberately calculated and designed to harass the minority and force them to resort to exodus from the land of their birth, besides dealing a death



blow to the long cherished communal harmony in the State. Emboldened by the State Government's lack of effective will to curb such activities and provide basic security of life, property, honour and religious belief to the minorities, these anti-socials have lately stepped up their activities, with the result that at present most of the important shrines and temples of the valley continue to be under their seige, either wholly or in part. This state of affairs, in which the members of the minority community have been deprived of their fundamental right to profess and practise their Hindu faith freely and fearlessly, has now assumed gigantic proportions, leaving the poor Hindu with his back to the wall and no means what so-ever to resist these elements.

The Kashmiri Hindus have for long been victims of worst discrimination in all fields at the hands of the State Government, with the result that most of them had to resort to exodus from the State and a few, who still continue to strive for existence in the valley, are held back only on account of their immense devotion and "Shraddha" for this pious land of Hindus and for the various unique shrines and temples located in the valley.

With such growing and repeated incidents and consequent intimidation, the Kashmiri Hindus have lost their attraction to live in the valley, and there is a genuine and widespread feeling among them that all these activities of the anti-social elements are a part of a bigger conspiracy to force the minority community of the Valley to resort to mass exodus, thereby facilitating, their ugly dream-come true.

Amidst such painful atmosphere, the Jammu and Kashmir Hindu Devasthan Surakhsha Samiti has stepped in to fill the void and to strive at creating congenial conditions and proper peaceful atmosphere for the Hindus to feel and breathe secure in the State,

## CONVENTION

Towards achieving its goal, the Samiti organised a one day convention at Shri Ram Ji Temple, Sathu Barbarshah, Srinagar, on Sunday the 27th of August, 1978. This first-of-its-kind, convention was attended by nearly four thousand (4000) delegates belonging to various religious and social organisations of the State and drawn from almost all districts, including far flung areas like Kupwara and Pahalgam in Kashmir Province and Rajouri and Kathua in Jammu Province. A special feature of the convention was its being blessed with the graceful presence of a number of religious heads and luminaries, noted among them being the following :—

- i) Jagat Guru Shri Panch Agni Peethadeeshwar Acharya Uyarya Shri Shri 1008 Prakashanand Ji Maharaj, Gujrat.
- ii) Shri 108 Swami Ishwara Nand Ji Maharaj.
- iii) Shri 108 Mehant Krishna Nand Ji Meharaj Sarasawti.



- iv) Shri 108 Mehant Krishna Dass Ji Maharaj Udaseen.
- v) Shri Acharya Puran Chand Ji Maharaj Bairagi.
- vi) Shri 108 Swami Suteekhshan Muni, Haryana.
- vii) Shri Netar Pal Ji Shastri.
- viii) Shri Triloki Nath Shastri.
- ix) Shri Pitamber Ji Shastri.

The convention started with a Yajna (Hawan) for universal peace and brother-hood and revival and strengthening of true Hindu faith as an eternal source of inspiration and salvation for all mankind. The Yajna was attended by thousands of Hindus, including men, women and children, and it came to an end at about 2 p. m.

At this stage the proceedings of the convention started in a huge open Pandal with preliminary discussions among the Delegates on the need to protect and defend the various Dharamsathans in the valley. The delegates, at the very outset, raised the voice that proper representations have not been given to the districts of the State excepting



Srinagar District. It was unanimously resolved that the present Committee be dissolved and Shri A. N. Ganjoo was asked to act as Convenor till fresh elections are held. The session lasted upto 4 P. M. when the Jagat Guru arrived to participate in the Convention. The highlight of this open Session, presided over by His Holiness, the Jagat Guru, was a heart-searching and scholarly discourse on Hinduism by various luminaries and religious heads. The main thrust of the discourses was that Hinduism has throughout withstood the worst repression at the hands of dictators and that the Hindus must rise to the occasion with their true spirit and save their Dharma from onslaughts from various quarters. Then came the most scintillating and illuminating discourse by His Holiness, the Chairman of the Session, who advised the State Government to shed its callous and indifferent attitude towards the Hindu minority in the State. The Jagat Guru exhorted the Delegates to do some heart searching, and raise their moral standards, in the spirit of true Hindus, so as to dispell the darkness alround. His Holiness the Jagat Guru assured the delegates of his and entire Hindu world's moral and physical support in their task of preserving and protecting their religious beliefs and Shrines

in the State. The Jagat Guru recalled with nostalgia that the holy land of Kashmir was in fact an embodiment of the entire Hindu religion and its virtues. His holiness recalled that the various Devasthanas of this Valley, notably Hari Parbat, Shri Chakrashwari, Holy Amarnath, Durga Nag, Bhairav Nath have been and continue to be the bedrock of the entire Hindu faith and culture. The Jagat Guru regretted the fact that the Hindus of Kashmir, who have been a beacon light of inspiration for the entire Hindu world, should find themselves in so miserable and pitiable condition. He cautioned that the extinction of the Hindu community in Kashmir would lead to extinction of the entire Hindu faith in the world. While stressing the need for unity and brotherhood among Hindus, the Jagat Guru offered co-operation and help on behalf of the entire Hindu World to the Kashmiri Hindus in their struggle for the protection and liberation of their Dharmasthans in the State.

# RESOLUTIONS

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*The 3rd Session of the Convention was attended by a vast number of Hindus besides the Delegates and it was also presided over by His Holiness the Jagat Guru Shri Panch Agni Peetha Deeshwar Acharya Varya Shri Shri 1008 Prakoshanand Ji Maharaj of Gujrat.*

*After lively discussions, the following 8 Resolutions were passed unanimously.*

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## RESOLUTION NO. 1

This convention views with concern and anxiety the introduction of two private bills in the State Legislative Assembly with the ostensible



object of streamlining the affairs of Hindu shrines in the State, but in actuality aimed at seeking Governmental interference in the religious affairs of the Hindu minority of the State by indirectly controlling the affairs and management of the Hindu Shrines and institutions.

This House is not opposed to, and has in fact been urging for long, a legislation aimed at consolidating the religious and charitable endowments in the State, but what it urges, is that the said legislation must be in keeping with the urges and aspirations of the Hindus and on their initiative alone and devoid of any Governmental interference, direct or indirect.

The present bill, therefore, deserves to be thrown out lock, stock and barrel and as such this convention calls upon the ruling party to issue a whip to its members in the State Assembly to vote down the nefarious bill so that the feelings and sentiments of the Hindu minority are respected in this vital matter affecting their fundamental religious rights.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas for some time past there has been a persistent and pernicious tendency in certain vandalist quarters to make onslaughts, intrusions and forcible occupation of the Hindu Shrines of the State in general and those of the valley in particular;

Whereas the growing number of such cases and the frequency of these are strong pointers towards the belief that these vandalist activities are coolly calculated, totally premeditated and entirely deliberate;

Whereas the apathetic attitude of the State Government in turning a Nelson's eye to such happenings and a deaf ear to the reports thereof lends credence to the suspicion that the State Government seems to be indifferent to these sacrilegious activities of anti-national and unsocial segments of the society who are out to destroy communal harmony and to harass the minorities;

Whereas the unfortunate Hindu is already with his back to the wall and has no means of his own to defend the "*Temples of his Gods*" and the "*Ashes of his Fathers*" against these marauding incursions and intrusions;

This House is constrained to deplore the callous indifference of the State Government towards this desecration and sacrilege and urges the powers that be, to rise to the occasion and win back the trust of the minorities by dealing sternly with the vandals and stopping once for all such acts of brute force and intrusions into and occupation of Hindu Shrines. This House is of the firm belief that unless the law and order machinery of the State is geared up effectively to bridle these anti-socials, elements Hindus will only feel themselves to be at the mercy of there anti-social elements and lose their sense of security.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 3**

Whereas the forcible, illegal and wanton occupation of Shri Bhairavnath Temple premises at Chattabal by a section of anti socials elemects has been a crying shame and requires immediate restoration of the badly shattered faith of Hindus of Kashmir in general and of Chattabal in particular ;



Whereas the concerned people of the minority community have exhausted all powers of persuasion, gentle argument and sweet reasonableness with the encroaching party and the authorities ;

Whereas the only recourse available to the Kashmiri Hindu to free this place of their worship from encroachment and forcible closure is violence which he is feign to adopt as an instrument and weapon ;

Whereas the continued occupation and closure of this shrine not only goes on adding insult to injury but also entails destruction and damage of the shrine through neglect.

And whereas it is the bounden duty of the State Government to enforce justice and rule of law by stern and strong action just as the Islamic State of Malaysia is doing in protecting and preserving the vihars, of Budhists and Temples of Hindus ;

This house expresses its dismay and dissatisfaction with the handling of this issue by the State Government during the last two

years and desires the Government to restore immediately the Bhairvanath Temple property in its entirety to the Hindus of the locality. If the Government continues to sit on the fence in the matter, the last remnant of hope and faith of the minority community will be shattered, and a situation unsavoury and unpalatable to all may arise. The house exhorts the Government to act fast and act firmly in the matter of doing justice to the wronged party which in the present case is the poor Kashmir Hindu community.

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#### RESOLUTION NO 4

Whereas Durganag Temple is one of the most important Shrines of the Kashmir Hindus and has a deep relation with the tradition and ritual of the pilgrimage of the Holy Mace on the occasion of Amarnath Yatra, besides being an assembling and camping ground for all sanyasis before the holy pilgrimage ;

Whereas the Shrine of Durganag is most ancient and hallowed by the Adi Shankaracharya Ji Maharaj at the time of his Digvijay;

Whereas this shrine has been voter and hub-centre of many struggles and strides of the Hindu and is deeply ingrained in the feelings and sentiments of the Hindus;

Whereas the illegal and forcible intrusion into and occupation of the temple land property by the Government itself on the one hand and the "*Auqaf*" on the other, tantamounts to deliberate and wilful expropriation of the rightful owner by sheer force and power and militates against all cannons of justice, tenets of truth and norms of fairplay;

Whereas the Governmental (Revenue) Records clearly testify to the undisputed ownership of over 55 Kantsals of land annexed to temple, it is a matter of regret that the State Government continues to vacillate and hesitate even in acknowledging our claim to the possession of the said land;

The House expresses its shock and surprise over the State Government's posture of innocent indifference to all the intrusions to present a



*"fait accompli"* to the minority community. This house, therefore, urges the State Government to take speedy steps to vacate illegal occupation of temple land by the "*Waqf Trust*" in respect of land illegally occupied by it and also vacate the land which the Government has itself forcibly grabbed and on which the Government has unauthorisedly and illegally constructed the Dewatering Station.

The House wants justice without any further delay.

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### RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas the ancient and mediæval history of the State is nothing but the story of the miseries of the Hindus;

Whereas throughout the ages to the present day Kashmiri Hindus have produced not only saints, savants and sages but transcendental men in every walk of life, be it philosophy or religion or be it literature, art or science;

Whereas the contribution of these men of eminence in all fields is inextricably connected with the evolution of the State, its development and its culture ;

Whereas not a single chair has been installed in the University dedicated to a Kashmiri Hindu, howsoever great he may have been and howsoever invaluable his contribution, not a single Kashmiri Hindu has been commemorated nor has a single Kashmiri Hindu been given his rightful place in the relevant records.

This house, therefore, while expressing its indignation and resentment urges the State Government and the educational set up to right the wrong done by immediately giving appropriate recognition to those outstanding Kashmiri Hindus whose contribution to Kashmiri life, literature and philosophy is unmatched as well as unique.

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### RESOLUTION NO. 6

This convention invites the attention of State and Central Govts. to the fact that in

a place called "DRAV" located in Tehsil Kupwara (now in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) lies an old religious shrine of SHARDAJI which is held in great esteem and reverence by the Hindus of the State.

It is unfortunate that despite several requests made in the past, the Central and the State Governments have done nothing so far to allow and facilitate the pilgrimage of Hindus to the said shrine on the day of a festival of the shrine as has been done in the case of Sikh pilgrims going over to Nanakana Sahib and Muslim pilgrims from Pakistan coming over to Ajmer Sharif.

The convention calls upon the Central and the State Governments to initiate a dialogue with Pakistan in this vital matter affecting the sentiments of Hindus of the State and ensure the pilgrimage of Hindus to the aforesaid shrine.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 7**

Whereas it is the fundamental right of a son of the soil to get work, employment



and livelihood from his Government, apart from his claim to security of his life, property and honour.

Whereas the Kashmiri Hindu is equally eligible for all opportunities of higher education, training and employment alongwith his brothers of other communities ;

Whereas the Kashmiri Hindu is facing invidious discrimination in the fields of education, training, industrial loans and employment and and is slowly squeezed, pushed out of the State in search of higher education, training, and employment resulting in the community's massive exodus (HIJRAT) ;

Whereas the Kashmiri Hindu is denied opportunities of employment and higher education in his own State he is finding it increasingly difficult to get these opportunities elsewhere in the country ;

Whereas a situation has arisen in which the Kashmiri Hindu in spite of his talent, education, merit, integrity, training and ability finds himself stranded in this wide world;

Whereas the recently enacted Agrarian Reforms Act has cut at the very roots of this minority community in Kashmir and no provision has been made for preserving and protecting the legitimate interests of Kashmiri Hindus a large section of which has suffered irreparably owing to the said enactment ;

Whereas the members of Kashmir Hindu minority continue to be treated as second class citizens of the State in respect of sharing of the fruits of socio-economic progress which has taken place in the State ;

Whereas the members of the minority community are being discriminated against by the State Government in all walks of life resulting in their economic stagnation;

The House, therefore, urges the State Government to provide gainful employment in Trade, Industry and office to the Kashmiri Hindu and redress their grievances so as to save the minority community from extinction in their place of birth,

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**RESOLUTION NO. 8**

This convention expresses its sorrow, resentment and anguish over the motivated and deliberate attempts of a coterie of vested interests and officials of Radio Kashmir, Srinagar and Door-Darshan Kendra to side-track and ignore the important religious functions and festivals of the Kashmiri Hindu community in Kashmir Province.

The convention regrets that the recently Janam-Ashtami procession, a public function on the day of Lord Krishna's birth and some other religious functions of the minority community got very little coverage from All India Radio Kashmir and Door-Darshan causing resentment among the community.

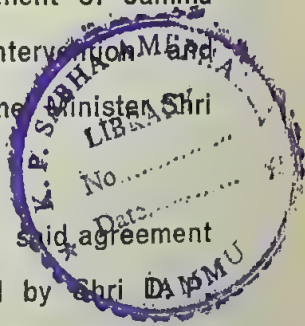
The convention further deplores that despite repeated requests the two agencies of AIR and Door - Darshan continue to locate with indifference and negligence the important events of Kashmiri Hindus and their religious functions. The negligence of AIR and Door-Darshan in not at all covering this convention, despite requests although it was

attended by various religious luminaries and heads including Jagat Guru Shri Panch Agni Peethadeeshwar Acharya Varya Shri Shri 1008 Prakashanand Ji Maharaj is regretted strongly and the convention calls upon these bodies to effect a change in their style of functioning so that the minority does not feel neglected and discriminated against in future.

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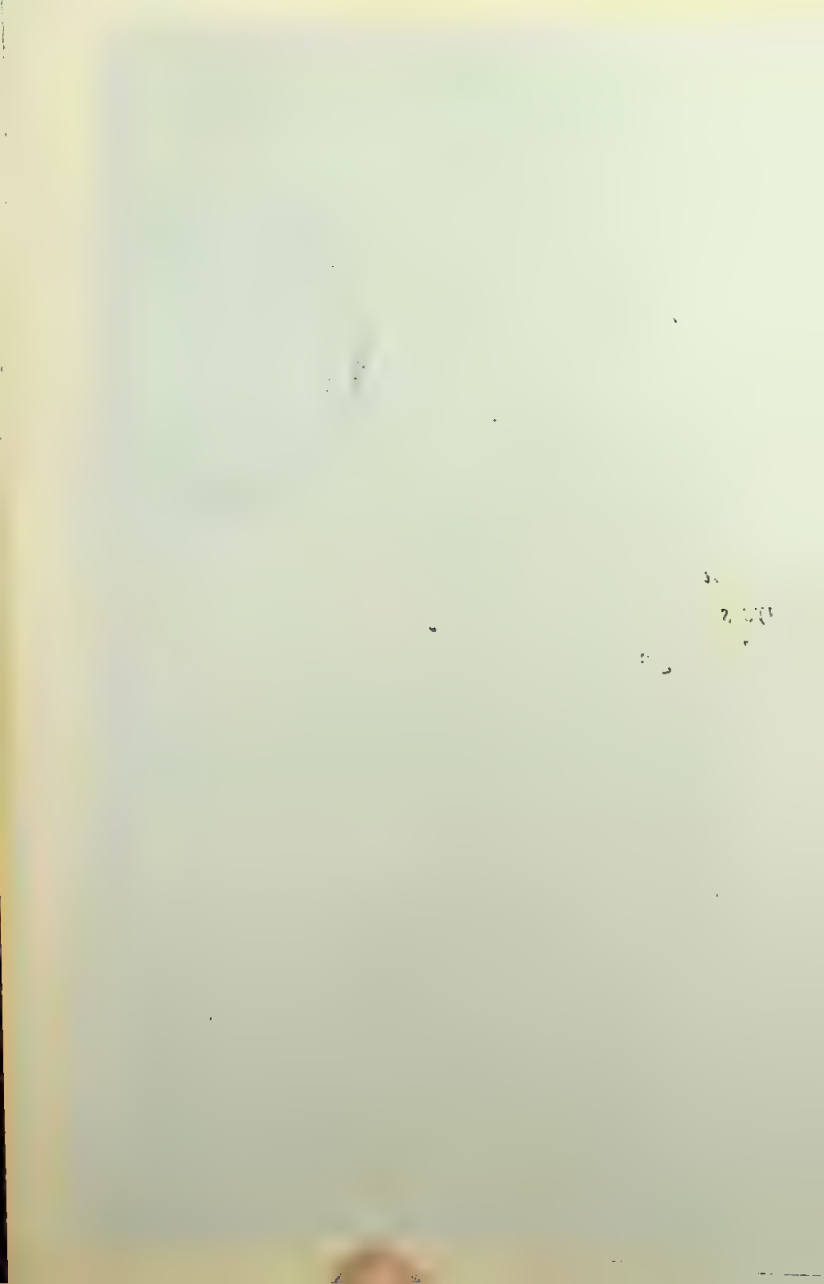
Whereas the peaceful struggle of Kashmiri Hindus in 1967 culminated in an agreement between the community and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir at the instance, intervention and assurance of the then Union Home Minister Shri Y. B. Chavhan.



Whereas in pursuance to the said agreement a commission of inquiry, headed by Shri Kohli was appointed to inquire into the police excesses resulting in the death of 6 innocent members of the community.

Whereas the report of the said commission of inquiry is yet to see the light of the day.

Now therefore this house resolves that the report of the said commission of inquiry be published forthwith so as to make public the helpless attitude of State Police in curbing the nefarious role of antisocials in the State.



# CONCLUSION

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*The Historic Convention came to an end at about 10.30 P. M. after which the Delegates assembled once again to bid farewell to His Holiness the Jagat Guru and other guests at the Convention. Thereafter the Delegates offered ~~praj~~ and were served with "PRASHAD" of the Yaginiya (PURAN AHOTI) and in this way the Convention came to an end so gloriously and piously as it had started in the morning of 27th of August, 1978, corresponding to 5th Bhadon 1900 (Saka) corresponding to 12th Bhadoon 2035 (Bikrami).*

JAI JAGAT AMBAY

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